

**FLOOR STATEMENT OF EDWARD J. MARKEY
ON MEDICAID CUTS IN THE BUDGET CONFERENCE REPORT
APRIL 28, 2005**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise today in opposition to the Republican Budget Conference Report.

The Republican budget makes huge cuts to critical programs for the poor and the most vulnerable in our country in order to give away \$106 Billion in tax cuts to the wealthiest in our society.

The Republican budget instructs the Energy and Commerce committee to cut \$14.7 Billion, of which at least \$10 billion is supposed to be cut from the Medicaid program that serves nearly 50 million Americans. Medicaid provides health care not only to poor moms and kids, but also to the elderly and the disabled.

The Republicans will tell you that they have to cut Medicaid because we are in state of fiscal crisis. And it's true we are in the midst of crisis. But it is a manufactured crisis.

If you add up all the spending that Congress has approved since 2001, you will see that:

- 48% of all the spending has gone to tax cuts,
- 37% has gone to Defense and Homeland Security, and
- only 15% has gone to Domestic programs.

It is clear when you look at these numbers that the deficit did not balloon upwards due to social programs, or even the war in Iraq. The deficit came from the Republican's irresponsible tax giveaways to help their fat cat friends get fatter and fatter and fatter.

This Republican budget asks the mothers and grandmothers in the nursing home, the disabled children, the poor, those with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, to sacrifice their health and dignity in order to finance the tax cuts of the wealthiest 1% in this country.

It asks those who have nothing to sacrifice everything, and those who have everything to sacrifice nothing.

This budget is about giving \$106 Billion away in tax cuts, cutting up to \$14.7 Billion from the Medicaid program..

I urge my colleagues to vote NO on this shortsighted, fiscally irresponsible, and immoral budget.